

2011 - June LGBT Month Statement

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Each June, we celebrate LGBT Pride month, reflecting on not only the strides we've made on the road to equality for America's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, but also honoring those who have pushed for progress and understanding across the world in the past and those who continue to do so today.

During his time in office, I have been proud to work with President Obama on several initiatives to ensure equality under the law for LGBT families everywhere – enacting the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, finally shepherding the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, lifting the HIV Entry Ban and guaranteeing LGBT families the right to visit and make medical decisions for their partners.

Despite this progress, we still have much to do. Families across the United States continue to have to choose between their country and their loved ones due to our broken and discriminatory family immigration system; teens and young adults continue to be bullied for merely expressing who they are; and our men and women in uniform remain in limbo, awaiting the official repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy. These are all issues that I am working to address in the 112th Congress, through efforts such as my Reuniting Families Act, which would end discrimination in our immigration laws.

I encourage all of you to celebrate LGBT Pride month in your communities. While the struggle for equality is incomplete, we can all work towards ensuring the dream is met during our lifetimes.